



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1801 | FAX (517) 373.5801

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/)

For Immediate Release  
April 6, 2006

Contact: Robyn Heron  
517-373-1801

## **Kent County to get new judgeship after governor signs Sen. Hardiman's bill**

**LANSING** — Legislation sponsored by Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, that will add a circuit judgeship in Kent County was signed into law by the governor today.

“Kent County people expect swift access to justice and this addition will greatly help that,” Hardiman said. “I also want to thank Rep. Van Regenmorter for being instrumental in ensuring passage of this bill.”

Van Regenmorter, R-Georgetown Township, chairs the House Judiciary Committee.

An October report from the Michigan Supreme Court outlined the need for three additional judgeships, but space and budget constraints limited the recommendation to just one more judgeship.

Now the Kent County Board of Commissioners would have to approve adding another judge to the nine-judge 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, which serves Kent County. The state would pay the \$157,582 in compensation for the judge while the county would pay for support staff and facility space.

Hardiman's legislation, Senate Bill 883, is now Public Act 99.

###